

REMARKS

Claims 1, 25, 38 and 40 have been amended, claims 7, 13-14, 21-24, 32-33 and 36-37 have been cancelled and claims 12 and 15-20 are withdrawn from consideration; thus claims 1-6, 8-11, 25-31, 34-35 and 38-41 remain pending for consideration.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for hosting the personal interview on October 6. In that interview, we discussed claims 1, 25, 38 and 40 and differences between the claimed “device specific commands” and the teaching in the Prager reference. We also discussed ways to clarify the “network-condition notification” language.

With respect to the “network-condition notification” language, applicants have added language to clarify that the “network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition.” As Applicants describe in the patent application (e.g., at paragraph 033), network conditions can include, for example, one or more errors that have occurred in the network.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 on the basis that the claims are indefinite. In response Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite “a network device” and “a central configuration record” so as to provide antecedent basis for the network device and central configuration record; thus applicants submit claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 are clear, definite and in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 25-29, 31, 34-35 and 38-41 stand rejected on the basis that the claims are rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,918 to Prager et al (Prager). In

light of the clarification to the claims, applicant respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered.

As discussed during the interview with the Examiner, contrary to statements on page 3 of the Final Office Action, Prager does not teach transferring “device specific” commands, as recited in claims 1, 25, 38 and 40, to their components 105. Specifically, Prager teaches, at Col. 11, lines 48-59, that their information from their stand alone template 905 “remains in its platform-independent format when it is propagated to the template end-point 710” in their components 105 (Col. 11, lines 51-52; See also FIG. 10). Applicants submit that Prager neither teaches nor suggests transferring “device specific” commands, and as a consequence, Applicants submit claims 1, 25, 38 and 40 are allowable over Prager.

In addition, in a good faith effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 (and have similarly amended claims 25, 38 and 40) to recite in part:

receiving a network-condition notification, wherein the
network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition;
determining a response to the network condition notification;
retrieving, in response to the determined response to the
network condition, a central configuration record...

modifying the central configuration record in accordance with
the determined response to the network condition so as to generate a
modified central configuration record...

generating at least one device-specific command corresponding
to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-
specific command is in a format that is native to the network device;
and

transferring the generated at least one device-specific command via a network to the network device, wherein the device-specific command includes at least one instruction to change the local configuration record of the router such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in a modification to the local configuration record, which enables the network device to assist in responding to the network condition.

The Office Action States that Prager's pushing or pulling of information (at Col. 11 lines 20-30) teaches both "receiving a network condition notification" and "retrieving" the configuration record in response to receiving the network-condition notification. As a convenience for the Examiner, Applicants reproduce, in pertinent part, Col. 11, lines 20-30:

4.5(d) Pushing versus Pulling of Information

Up until now, we have described propagation as an operation initiated from the stand-alone template 905. This is referred to as a push of the template. It is also possible to pull the information from the central configuration database 400 to the subscriber's database 1005. In the latter case, the information transfer operation is initiated from the subscriber template 1000.

Applicants submit that this portion of Prager does not teach "receiving a network-condition notification" nor "retrieving" the configuration record in response to receiving the network-condition notification. Applicants, however, have amended claims 1, 25, 38 and 40 to further clarify that the recited network-condition notification is "indicative of a network condition" and that the central configuration record is retrieved and modified in accordance with a determined "response to the network condition notification." As recited in amended claims 1, 25, 38 and 40, one or more "device-specific" commands are generated from the modified central configuration record and transferred to the network

device so as to enable the network device to “assist in responding to the network condition.”

Applicants submit that Prager neither teaches nor suggests receiving a network-condition notification that “is indicative of a network condition.” Although Prager’s components 105 may initiate the movement of Prager’s platform-independent information by pulling the information, there is simply no suggestion that Prager’s system responds in any way to a “network-condition notification.”

As a consequence, Applicants submit independent claims 1, 25, 38 and 40 are new, non-obvious and in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants submit dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 26-31, 34-35, 39 and 41 are allowable, at least, by virtue of being dependent from an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

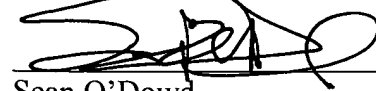
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean O'Dowd', is written over a horizontal line.

Sean O'Dowd

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